

Lectotypification of *Oryctanthus occidentalis* (L.) Eichler (Loranthaceae)

Job Kuijt

649 Lost Lake Road, Victoria, B.C. V9B 6E3, Canada

and

Thomas A. Zanoni

New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458-5153, USA.

ABSTRACT

The lectotype of *Oryctanthus occidentalis* (L.) Eichler (Loranthaceae) is designated, correcting an earlier error. www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 95(4): 248-249 (Nov. 1, 2013). ISSN 030319430

KEY WORDS: Lectotypification, *Loranthus occidentalis*, *Oryctanthus occidentalis*.

The mistletoe species, *Oryctanthus occidentalis* (L.) Eichler, originally described as *Loranthus occidentalis* L. from Jamaica, has subsequently been recognized as mostly a continental taxon. Kuijt (1976) treated a specimen housed in the Sloane Herbarium (BM) as the holotype of this species; he, however, was uncertain whether Linnaeus saw the specimen (“whether or not Linnaeus saw this specimen”). Kuijt’s assessment, as also indicated by Jarvis (2007), is incorrect, for Linnaeus never examined the Sloane Herbarium specimens. [“It is well known that Linnaeus did not examine these specimens but rather used the Catalogue, and the illustrations published in the History, to authenticate many of the 1753 binomials which included a reference to a Jamaican plant. Linnaeus reproduced Sloane’s polynomials verbatim, only changing the Latin very slightly here and there.” (vide The Sloane Herbarium).] Additionally, the place of original publication of *L. occidentalis* as cited in Kuijt [1976: 520 (as “Amoen. Acad. 5: 396. 1760”)] is also incorrect: it was first published in Linnaeus’ *Systema Naturae*, ed. 10, 2: 988 (1759), where it is listed as specimen No. 2 under *Loranthus* (bottom 2 lines). Linnaeus did acknowledge having seen the figure in Sloane’s “Voyage”, erroneously citing it as “T. 100 f. 2”, which should have been “T. 200 f. 2”.

The relevant sheet in Sloane’s herbarium bears two different specimens, *Oryctanthus occidentalis* being in the center of the sheet; the other specimen is probably *Phoradendron quadrangulare* (Kunth) Griseb. (Viscaceae), a common parasite throughout most of tropical America (Kuijt 2003). Sloane’s illustration is unmistakably based on the above-mentioned *Oryctanthus* specimen.

Our conclusion, therefore, is that the above mentioned Sloane figure is to be designated the lectotype of *Oryctanthus occidentalis*. The actual specimen upon which the illustration is based cannot be regarded as the type.

Taxonomic Summary:

Oryctanthus occidentalis (L.) Eichler in Martius, Fl. Bras. 5(2): 87, t. 89. 1868.

Loranthus occidentalis L., Syst. Nat., ed. 2: 988. 1759.

Type: Jamaica. Lectotype (designated here): Sloane, Voy. Jamaica 2: t. 200 fig. 2. 1725 (as “T. 100 f. 2” by Linnaeus).

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